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# The CHANNEL

An International Quarterly of Occultism,  
Spiritual Philosophy of Life, and the  
Science of Superphysical Facts

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EDITOR  
MARIE RUSSAK HOTCHNER

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Stead's Borderland Bureau  
Estelle W. Stead

The Phantom Ship  
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Stories of Past Lives  
Elizabeth Severs

Hypnotism Clairvoyantly  
Analyzed  
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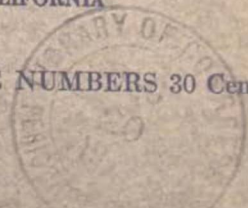
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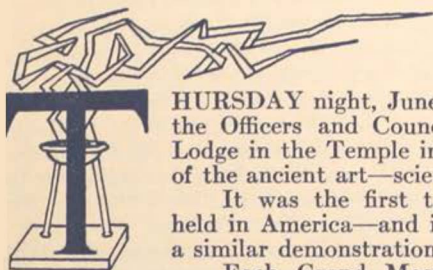
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## Psychic Events

### A Demonstration of Alchemy



HURSDAY night, June 22, 1916, there was given to the Officers and Councilors of the Supreme Grand Lodge in the Temple in New York, a demonstration of the ancient art—science—of transmutation.

It was the first time such a convocation was held in America—and it may be several years before a similar demonstration will be given again.

Each Grand Master General is permitted to give, during his lifetime and term of office, one demonstration of the ancient process whereby the transmutation of metal is accomplished.

Believing that the time was ripe for such a demonstration before the members who have been studying the laws which underlie all transmutation, our Imperator and Grand Master General made preparations for this most interesting manifestation of those fundamental laws so thoroughly covered by the lectures of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Degrees of our Order.

The preparations consisted in writing upon fifteen cards the six or seven ingredients used in the process and the eight or nine accessories, including a small pair of tweezers, a small china dish, piece of gauze, pail of filtered water, etc. Also was written on one card "a piece of ordinary zinc, size about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide, 1-inch long and 1-32 of an inch thick," while on another card was written "small amount of pure nitric acid for testing the zinc."

These cards were drawn at random by the members of the Fourth Degree on the previous Thursday night. By this means fifteen of the members of the Council actually possessed, collectively, the complete formula for the process, though individually each found that, except for the zinc and nitric acid, the article called for on the card was easily obtainable in the home or on the street with no, or little, expense. In fact, each testified that the ingredients used, outside of the zinc and nitric acid, could be safely taken into the mouth and swallowed—and that some were even used in cooking in the home.

Each member was pledged to secrecy,—not to reveal to any other member, or anyone else, what was written on the cards, and all were pledged not to unite the fifteen parts of the formulae until three years after the transition of the present Grand Master General. Each member was then told to bring the articles called for, in carefully wrapped packages, and to hold them intact until called for.

On the night of the demonstration all were on hand promptly at 8 o'clock. In order to meet the demand for one outside and disinterested witness, a representative of the New York *World's* editorial department was invited. Because of his presence a ceremony was arranged which did not include any of the secret rituals or work.

The Temple was especially decorated with beautiful red blooms. Beside the usual crucible stood a table draped with the altar cloth and symbols and an American flag. All officers were in full regalia.

After an opening prayer an address was given by the Grand Master General, as follows:

"We are assembled in Holy Convocation tonight in this Temple to demonstrate for the first time in this country the actual realization of the dreams of our founders. For a hundred years or more the Elder Brothers of our Order in Egypt worked at their crucibles and wrestled with the problems of alchemy in an attempt to apply the fundamental laws of our philosophy and science. At last they succeeded, and transmutation on the material plane, according to the laws of the triangle on the material plane, was demonstrated. And it has never been demonstrated outside of our Order.

"You have had explained to you in the first, second, and third degrees, these same fundamental laws. You know the true laws underlying the composition of all matter and its qualities and classification. You know the real difference between glass and wood, air and water, flesh and mineral; and you know the true and actual difference between a piece of granite, a piece of lead, and a lump or grain of pure gold. You know that by altering or modifying these differences you will modify the physical property—the quality, the expression, of these minerals. All this you know. You have received the absolute knowledge in our lectures and demonstrations. Your understanding of the great principles and laws of God and nature is based upon facts, whereas all around us we see and meet with claims and processes in those fields of science outside of our Order, which are based entirely upon theory or promiscuous observation.

"Since the members of this Fourth Degree are the most advanced of our own hundreds of Rosaecrucians in America to-day, I have felt the call to take advantage of the privilege accorded to me as your Emperor and Supreme Grand Master, to make this demonstration of the laws of transmutation; and after due consideration of its national import and its immediate effect upon the minds of those who esteem this Order and its work so reverently, I grant unto you one and all the privilege of witnessing for the first time the sacred, holy, and secret process and method of transmutation.

"May the Light so shine through this demonstration to-night that thousands of yearning souls in every part of this glorious country may, indirectly, see the Light and find it a beacon by which they may be guided to our fields of endeavor."

Then the fifteen members holding packages as per instructions on their cards, were requested to place them on the table beside the crucible in full sight of the members. Directly beside the table sat the New York *World's* representative keenly alive to the value of close observation, and as skeptical as any skeptic we may meet from a newspaper. The *World* has been investigating some of the other so-called Rosaecrucian movements in this country and from the correspondence it so gladly showed us, with the evidence of false statements, we are not surprised that this investigator was anxious to have all the further proof he could add to that which he already possessed



regarding the genuineness of the claims made by our Order. For this reason—unlike those bodies he is trying to investigate,—we gave him every possible opportunity to know.

When the zinc was produced by one of our members—himself a mining engineer and expert on the subject of metals—it was at once turned back to the members to be so marked with initials and symbols as to make future identification positive.

The New York *World* representative was one of the first to mark his initials on the piece of zinc in an unmistakable manner. Then the zinc was tested by nitric acid to prove its nature. The fumes from the acid on the zinc were plainly visible to all present. Then the piece of zinc was cut in half. The half piece, about half an inch square, containing the scratched initials and symbols, was carefully weighed on assayers' scales. It weighed exactly 446 milligrams.

Then the zinc was handed to the Vestal Virgin, who took it with the tweezers and held the metal in full sight while the Grand Master General picked up a small china dish—such as is used as "butter dishes" and which a member had placed on the table. Into this dish all could plainly see the Master drop some white powder supplied by one Sister present. Into this was dropped several petals from a fresh red rose brought by another Sister. Then the Vestal Virgin placed the piece of zinc in the dish and over it were sprinkled several other white powders by some of the Brothers.

The dish was then held over the colored flames and fumes of the crucible, while the Master stirred the contents of the dish with merely the tip of the forefinger of his right hand.

The left hand of the Master held the dish over the flames and the fingers of the hand were certainly severely scorched, as could be seen after the allotted "sixteen minutes" of stirring were up, but he showed no sense of pain then nor over two hours afterward, and the following morning even the outward effects of the burn had disappeared.

During the process, which called for continued concentration and very active handling of dish, ingredients, etc., to a most tiring and exhaustive degree, the Master dropped into the dish the different ingredients brought by the members. The *World* representative was most careful to note the outward appearance of each ingredient, and surely none present missed a single phase of the process. Our nerves were tense, we hardly breathed, and we were prepared for almost anything.

It was the first time the Master had conducted the process, and he and we all realized that if any member had failed to bring just the proper ingredient, or if anything else was wrong—a disaster might occur. Emergency articles had been provided by some present—for it was not the failure of the demonstration which we hoped would not come at this time, but personal injury to the Master whose whole body was so close to the crucible and whose hands and face were practically in the fumes.

After the last petal of the rose had been dropped into the dish, the Master announced that he had reached the end of the process as he knew it. It was a crucial moment. The Master straightened up

his figure from the bent-over position he had maintained for sixteen minutes. Those in the rear of the room rose from their seats and crowded to the front of the Temple, forgetting all Temple decorum in their eagerness to see the result of the process.

Then, in a quiet, simple manner the Master lifted the metal from the dish, held it close to the altar light burning in a crystal lamp brought from a Rosaecrucian Temple in the Orient, and, after a critical examination, announced in a dignified, almost reverent tone: "It is gold!"

Those close by leaned forward to see the metal. There was an almost imperceptible motion of rushing toward the Master by the thirty-seven members present, when the Master passed the metal over to the Brother who had brought the original piece of zinc and said: "Brother, you and the gentleman from the *World* may weigh the metal and note the probable increase in weight."

Carefully was the metal weighed again by the same scales. Every adjustment possible showed that the piece of metal had increased in weight. This was announced by those witnessing the weighing. Then the *World's* representative announced that the piece of metal contained and plainly showed his initials and other marks, and others stated that their identification marks were also visible.

The metal had a bright yellow appearance, much like the light color of pure gold and not like the more copper yellow color of 14 or 18 karat gold.

At the request of the Master the metal was immediately subjected to nitric acid tests, as was the zinc—the same piece of metal—before the transmutation. This time there was no burning of the metal, no fumes, and the test was repeated several times.

Astounded—yet knowing what really had occurred and the simplicity of it according to our teachings—most of us felt that we had witnessed one of the strangest, most sacred demonstrations and experiments yet given in our Temple.

The Master fittingly closed the convocation, and all retired to the Emperor's office, the Emperor carrying with him two pieces of metal—each originally forming one piece of zinc—now different in color, weight, and nature. The Secretary General remained in the Temple to destroy all the ingredients which remained unused on the table beside the crucible.

In the Emperor's office, under the bright white electric lights, the two pieces of metal were compared. It is needless to state that most of the members conceded that one was gold—of a refined nature—while the other was zinc. A few were less positive that it was pure gold and their attitude is best expressed by the words of the *World's* representative, who in writing the report for the newspapers, said: "Whether pure gold was evolved or not I cannot say. I am not familiar enough with gold to make so bold a declaration. But of this much I am sure and will vouch for: a piece of tested and marked zinc was certainly transmuted into some other metal of a distinctly different nature, color, and weight, which successfully passed the acid test for gold. Furthermore, it looks like gold. Whereas the



metal I marked and tested was at one time zinc, it is not zinc now, and the change was brought about before our eyes in fifteen to twenty minutes, in an honest, sincere, and frank manner."

The two pieces of metal will remain for some time in the Emperor's office, in a case, where they may be seen. Newspaper men, editors, and several scientists have examined them and gone their way greatly perplexed. No change in the appearance or size of the metals has occurred since the demonstration—and none is expected—except that one small corner piece of the gold has been cut off and sent to the Supreme Council of the Order in France along with an official report.

—*The American Rosae Crucis.*

## Indian Snake Charmer

We have just been the eye-witnesses of one of those remarkable exhibitions of Indian skill which travelers report to an unbelieving Western world. Fraudulent jugglers have so often duped mere tourists that the uninformed believe that no genuine magic can be found in India. But the incident which I am about to relate took place in our own bungalow compound, within sight of my sisters and myself and a host of people of all sorts and conditions; I had the opportunity of following the chief actor within a distance of four or five feet and of interrogating him through a kind and able interpreter at every stage; and so, for those who will believe me, there is a bit of first-hand evidence of the unquestioned variety. . . .

To-day a wandering snake-charmer from Anuradhapura, a Tamil, originating really in some obscure South Indian village, happened into Mt. Lavinia. He is a well-built and very dark Indian, clad in the picturesque garments that suit the dark skin so well, and wearing in his right nostril a bright gold ring in which was set a blood ruby. He carried a sort of saddle-bag on his shoulder, at his belt a kind of woven pouch, and in his hands a gourd pipe giving notes like a very soft bagpipe. An ordinary stick completed his equipment.

At the request of the inhabitants he displayed his permanent stock in trade, a huge *cobra de capella*, making it hiss and sway and strike to the notes of his singing gourd; and he displayed also a drugged snake of some common variety. Naturally, in the course of his conversation with the inhabitants of this village, it developed that a man—as I mentioned above—had lately been killed by a snake; and presently an enterprising shop-keeper offered the snake-charmer a reward on condition that he would catch this particular deadly brute; and, as this was in his line of business, the itinerant magician promptly accepted the offer. He was therefore conducted to the road just outside our gate (and it is here that we came in as eye-witnesses), for he asked only that he be brought within a hundred yards of the probable spot where the man had been bitten.

So he began wandering up and down one side of the road, carrying a plaintive air on his outlandish instrument and darting his wonderfully sharp eyes over the grass and under the bushes, straining his